

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 05272

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: TSPA, UN, UR
SUBJ: OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE

1. AT THE INITIATIVE OF SOVIET DEL (MAIORSKI), US DEL
(KSCHAEFER) HAD PRIVATE CONVERSATION ON A NUMBER OF
TOPICS.

2. GENERAL. USSR DEL URGED WE SERIOUSLY CONSIDER BILAT-
ERAL CONSULTATION MEETING PRIOR TO JUNE MEETING OF OUTER
SPACE COMMITTEE (OSC) CONCERNING DIRECT BROADCASTING
(DBS), REMOTE SENSING (RS), NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES (NPS)
AND DEFINITION OF OUTER SPACE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT SUCH
CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL.

3. DIRECT BROADCASTING. REGARDING DBS, USSR DEL INDI-
CATED THEY ARE PREPARED TO MAKE SERIOUS EFFORT TO RESOLVE
REMAINING ISSUES. HE SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS MUTUAL
ACCOMMODATION COULD BE FOUND BY USING TERM "ARRANGEMENT"
IN CURRENT CONTENTIOUS PRINCIPLE ON "CONSULTATION AND
AGREEMENTS." HE BELIEVES THAT PRINCIPLE WOULD HAVE TO BE
WORDED IN SUCH MANNER AS TO AFFORD SOME FLEXIBILITY IN
INTERPRETATION. IF SOME RESOLUTION ALONG THESE LINES
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WOULD BE AGREED UPON IN THE BILATERAL CONSULTATION THEY
WOULD ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE MOSCOW TO ACCEPT IT UPON THEIR
RETURN. FINALLY, SOV DEL EMPHASIZED THAT UNLESS ACCOMMO-
DATION CAN BE FOUND, BOTH US AND USSR WILL ONCE AGAIN
FACE EACH OTHER IN AN ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE AT FORTHCOMING
OSC TO THE DELIGHT OF OTHER DELS. HE ALSO RAISED POSSI-
BILITY THAT GROUP OF 77 WOULD PUSH FOR PUTTING ISSUE

BEFORE GA.

4. REMOTE SENSING. SOV DEL WAS EQUALLY CONVINCED THAT ACCOMMODATION ON RS COULD BE REACHED. HE REMINDED US DEL THAT TWO YEARS AGO (IN LONDON) THEY PROPOSED TO RESOLVE REMAINING ISSUES BY AGREEING TO 50 METER RESOLUTION FOR PHOTO AND 30 METER FOR SCANNER. US DELS IN LONDON EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PROPOSITION BUT DID NOT FOLLOW UP. HE BELIEVES THAT THIS OR SOME MODIFICATION OF THIS PROPOSAL COULD ACHIEVE CONSENSUS. HE POINTED OUT THAT BECAUSE OF "TOMORROW'S" TECHNOLOGY IN THE AREA OF REMOTE SENSING, IT IS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST TO FORMULATE A PRINCIPLE WHICH ACCOMMODATES THE CONCERNS OF LDC'S REGARDING TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY BUT LEAVE THE NEW RS TECHNOLOGY RELATIVELY UNRESTRICTED.

5. NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES. CONCERNING NPS, SOV DEL EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER US HANDLING OF COSMOS 954 ISSUE. HE BELIEVES THAT IF US CONTINUES TO STRESS THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR POWERED SATELLITES USSR WILL HAVE TO EMBARK ON CAMPAIGN TO POINT OUT THE EQUAL DANGERS OF ISOTOPES. HE BELIEVES IT IS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST TO REACH MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION ON THIS ISSUE AT AN EARLY DATE. BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BEFORE JUNE OSC MEETING IS DESIRABLE.

6. DEFINITIONS OF OUTER SPACE. USSR DEL SAID THAT A
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DEFINITION OF OUTER SPACE (100 KM-150 KM) IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT AND URGENT. SOV DEL BELIEVES THAT COLOMBIA AND OTHER EQUATORIAL COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE TO PICK THE ISSUE OF SOVEREIGNTY OF GSO AND MOST LIKELY WILL HAVE SUPPORT OF GROUP OF 77. HE MAINTAINED THAT NONE OF THE G-77 WOULD OPENLY OPPOSE THE COLOMBIA, ET AL., CONTENTION RE GSO. SOVIET DEL FELT THAT UNLESS A DEFINITION IS AGREED UPON IN LSC THERE IS A RISK THAT SOME ARBITRARY LIMITS AND DEFINITIONS WOULD BE IMPOSED BY G-77. HE CITED EXAMPLE OF "LAW OF THE SEA" DEBATE, WHERE COUNTRIES CLAIM 200-MILE LIMIT. A CONSENSUS ON A DEFINITION IN OSC WOULD, IN SOV DEL VIEW, PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION OF SEVERE LIMITATION LATER ON TO THE DETRIMENT OF US AND USSR.

7. SOVIET DEL ONCE AGAIN EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS IN THESE AREAS AS WELL AS ASAT. RE ASAT, HE ESSENTIALLY REPEATED WHAT HE ALREADY DISCUSSED WITH DOD REP, MELANSON.

8. COMMENT. US DEL BELIEVES USSR WAS FRANK DURING DISCUSSION, IN PARTICULAR RE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS. WASHINGTON SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER EACH OF THE ABOVE ITEMS.

VANDEN HEUVEL

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